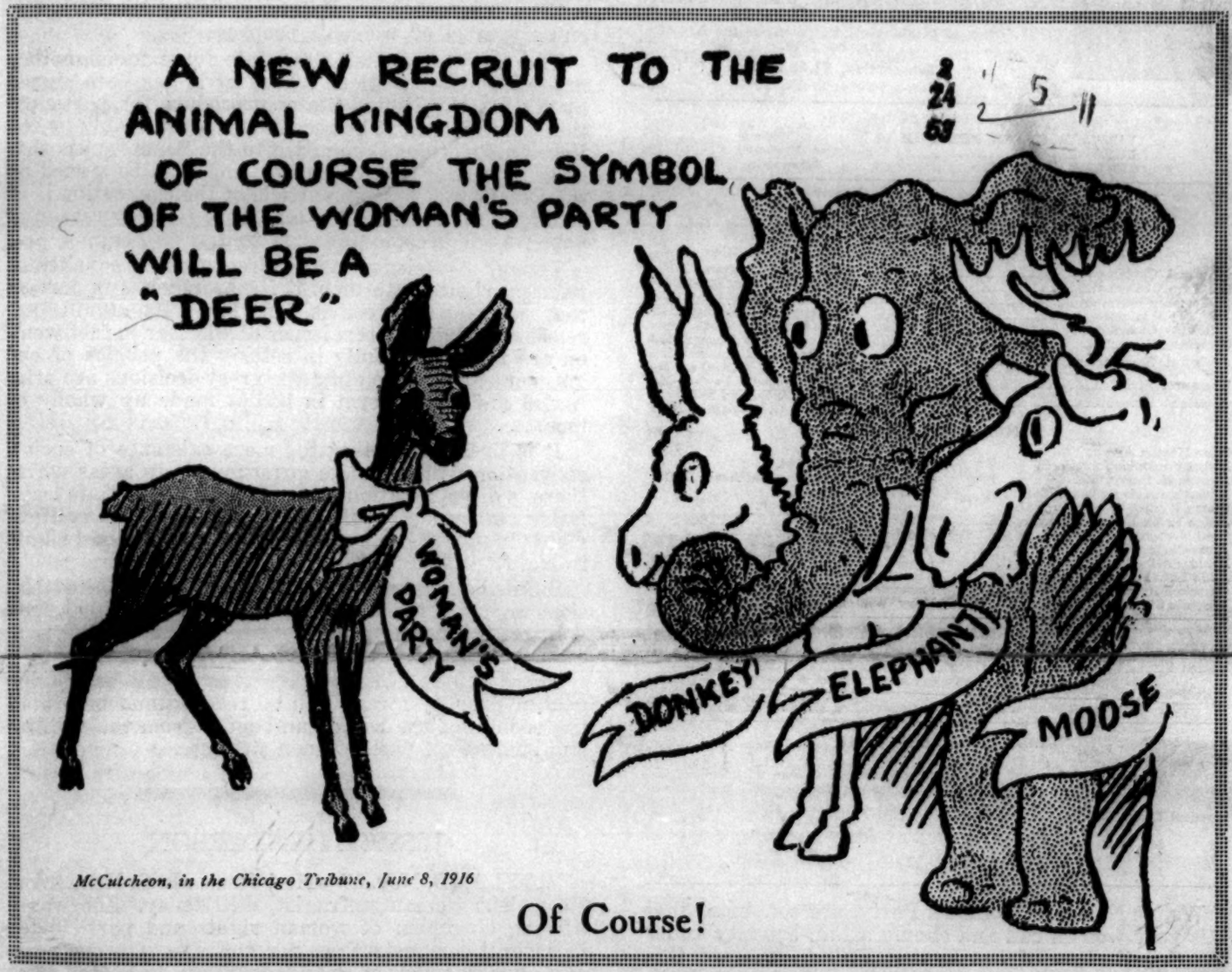
Sec. 32

EQUAL RIGHTS

"EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX."



McCutcheon, in the Chicago Tribune, June 8, 1916

Of Course!

On the first day of the session, Jan. 3, 1954, the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT was introduced by Rep. Katherine St. George (R., New York) as H.J.R. 74. Mrs. St. George again becomes the Chief Sponsor of the Amendment in the House. Mr. Mills, Mr. Poulson, Mr. Harris and Mr. Davis introduced identical bills.

Senate sponsorship will appear in a later issue.

On the eve of the passage of the Amendment and on our 40th Anniversary, we reproduced our famous cartoon of 1916.

It illustrates the vast changes in the political climate, in the past four decades, to a point where today the power of the women's vote is well recognized—There are now 1,500,000 more women voters than men.

National Woman's Party is primarily an educational and informational organization. Founded "to raise the status of women," we are interested in assisting women to obtain top places in government, business, and as partners in the home. We have a legislative committee, which deals with law. We have nine other major committees covering the educational field.

Ethel Ernest Murrell, National Chairman—National Woman's Party.

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

Published at 144 Constitution Ave., N. E., Washington 2, D. C. Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. 39, No. 2 Washington 2, D. C. Jan. - Feb., 1953

EQUAL RIGHTS

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
Capitol Hill Washington 2, D. C.

Published at
144 Constitution Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D. C.
Entered as second class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $1.50 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.00

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TEXT OF EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"... rights ... shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress and the several States shall have power, within their respective jurisdictions, to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

"This amendment shall take effect one year after the date of ratification."

STATUS OF AMENDMENT

Introduced:
In House, January 3, by Rep. Katherine St. George (R) New York. Referred to House Judiciary Committee, Chauncey W. Reed, Chairman (R) Ill.

Identical Bills
Mr. Mills of Arkansas H.J.R. 74
Mr. Poulson of Calif. H.J.R. 90
Mr. Davis of Tenn. H.J.R. 146
Mr. Harris of Arkansas H.J.R. 148

We, at National Woman's Party, are convinced that this year women can and should attain equality under the Constitution of the United States. Toward this end every endorsing organization needs to put forth its best efforts in urging Congress to pass the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. It is particularly important that all new Congressmen be contacted by their constituents.

Please send letters and telegrams from your state immediately, urging your Congressmen to support the Amendment. Refer to it as the St. George H.J. Res. No. 74.

The General Federation has promised its best efforts, and we know the Business and Professional will work hard for the passage of the Amendment.

Copenhagen, Jan. 18 (AP)—Mrs. Eugenie Anderson, first woman ambassador in United States history, may also be the first woman in Danish history to be made a Knight Grand Gross of the Most Excellent Order of Dannebrog.

Authoritative informants said today the Foreign Ministry has recommended to King Frederik IX that he award Mrs. Anderson the high decoration in recognition of her services during three years as American envoy here.

UN O.K.s WOMAN'S TREATY

The passage of the Convention on Political Rights for Women by the General Assembly of the United Nations marks another milestone in the uphill fight for women's rights. Much must still be done by individual nations before the effect of the convention will be felt, but it represents, none the less, a heartening symbol of women's progress.

The convention shall come into force for signatory nations on the ninetieth day after it has been signed by six. In the United States procedure for participation requires that it be recommended favorably by the Foreign Relations Committee to the Senate, pass that body by a two-thirds majority, and then be signed by the President. Since no article of the convention is in conflict with our Constitution, there is every reason to hope we will become signatory to it.

Though American women already enjoy equality of political rights with men, it is nevertheless important that we sign the convention, for, "Its significance reaches . . . into the real issues of whether in fact women are recognized fully in setting the policies of our governments . . . too often the great decisions are originated and given form in bodies made up wholly of men. . . .

It is to be hoped that the mere existence of such a convention will stimulate governments in areas where there is discrimination against women to initiate legislative changes. At present women have no political rights in fifteen independent nations and limited rights in eight.

Since the signing of the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, twenty countries have granted women political rights on an equal basis with men, and four countries have granted limited rights.

There are still many milestones ahead before the goal of equality for all will be reached and before all the peoples of the world can benefit from the abilities and energies of their women citizens.

JESSICA HENDERSON

WAYLAND, Nov. 27—Mrs. Jessica L. C. Henderson, 86, ardent woman suffragist, died today. She was a lifelong champion of woman rights and participated in several demonstrations for suffrage. On one occasion, during a visit of President Wilson to Boston after his return from the peace conference at The Hague, Mrs. Henderson and her 14-year-old daughter were among 22 women jailed for their demonstration.

Miss Vida Milholland, former suffragist leader, died at Meadowmount. She was a sister of Inez Milholland Boissevain, who died in 1916.

In the years before woman suffrage was won, she gave many concerts for the cause. She was one of eleven women arrested for picketing the White House on July 4, 1917.

I couldn't get along without EQUAL RIGHTS. It is wonderful to me that you carry on.

Sincerely,
Ruth Huston Whipple,
City Commissioner
Plymouth, Michigan

LONDON, ENGLAND

Great Britain's last official male bastion, the House of Lords today took the first step toward allowing women to take seats in its staid chambers.

The House gave a first formal reading to a bill introduced by former Lord Chancellor Lord Simon. Queen Elizabeth is thus given to appoint ten new peers every year whose titles could not be passed on to their heirs.

British subjects of either sex could become members of the House of Lords under these life-time only peerages.

In 1930 a group of peeresses in their own right formed a committee headed by Viscountess Rhondda, to press their unsuccessful fight for a place in the chamber. The Lords won, but Lady Rhondda, who was a militant suffragist before she became a viscountess, harried them in *Time and Tide*, a weekly newspaper of which she still is editor and publisher at sixty-eight.

INDIA

Hindu Draft Code Loosens Legal Shackles On Women

New Delhi

Women have won a big victory in the new draft Hindu code.

The present draft bill is sponsored by the Dominion of India Law Minister, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. If it becomes law, this is what the Hindu woman—regarded in practice and hitherto legally assumed to be the property of her husband—will gain:

1. Her husband will not be able to take another wife while she is living.

2. She will have the legal right to claim separate maintenance from her husband on grounds of infidelity, cruelty, abandonment, or if he has changed his religion, or if there is any other cause justifying her living separately.

Dowry a Trust

3. The property which is given her by her parents as a dowry on her marriage will be treated as trust property.

4. She is given a share in the property of her father if he passes on intestate.

5. If she has a right to inherit property, she gets it by reason of the fact that she is declared to be an heir irrespective of any other considerations.

The bill converts a limited estate into an absolute estate as in the case of the male heir.

Any party which marries under the new code has three remedies to get out of the contract of marriage. First, to have the marriage declared null and void; second, to have it declared invalid, and, third, to have it dissolved.

I am enclosing remittance for EQUAL RIGHTS for 1953. Purpose of this letter is to compliment EQUAL RIGHTS—shorter it becomes, the better it is. Wish more papers would do that instead of carrying so much excess baggage. Another compliment is to go especially to the back page, quoting Judge Brown. Best wishes for 1953.

Sincerely,
Lizabeth Wiley
Greybull, Wyoming

The Woman's Global Congress of International Friendship, Education and Culture

The Woman's Global Congress of International Friendship, Education and Culture, envisioning the need for the women of all nations to work together in a neutral zone, has asked the United Nations to make the Kiel Canal Zone between Denmark and Germany a peace state, governed entirely by women representatives from every country in the world—to be the Friendship State.

All governments are asked to give their vote in UN for the establishment of the Friendship State, the purpose of which is:

A. To conduct a Women's Global Congress.

B. To educate groups of women from all countries to efficient motherhood, culture and global friendship. These women to return to their own countries as teachers for their countrywomen.

C. To give a home to and to educate groups of homeless orphans from all countries, later to return them t otheir nations as messengers of friendship and welfare.

Mrs. Thyra Boldsen is touring the U.S.A. in the interest of the Woman's Global Congress. She was entertained at Colorado Springs by Mrs. Lilliean H. Kerr.

Let The Woman Seek The Office

What this country needs is more women in politics—a closer balance and blending of the masculine and feminine viewpoints in public affairs.

That is what most women and many men believe is an important step in achieving better representation and better government.

As they weigh the record, they are finding that achievements, great as they have been, are on the short end of the ledger, particularly in politics.

There are no women Governors today. No woman serves in the Cabinet. Only 211 women are serving in state legislatures, among thousands of men; and few women hold high state positions.

There is prejudice against women in public office, to be sure. Many men resent a woman's presence in politics and work to block her at every turn.

It is not an easy thing to compete in politics with men. They are past masters at the game. They know all the tricks and maneuvers. Women who have the courage and initiative to make a try for office deserve a great deal of credit and support.

Yet it is desirable, surely, that there should be a wider expression of the woman's viewpoint in national and international affairs. These affairs are their affairs. They affect their home and their children.

They should have a "say" in them not only as a privilege, but as a responsibility, as many women leaders see it.

—Josephine Ripley in Christian Science Monitor

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GIFTS OF BOOKS

The Florence Bayard Hilles Library was recently the recipient of a gift of forty-three books, the generous donation of Dr. Rosalie Slaughter Morton. The books are largely concerned with the subject of women in medicine and are accessions useful in rounding out the collection.

It is hoped that the needs of the library will be kept in mind by the membership and that gifts of books or money will be made, since there is no allocation of funds for the purchase of books. New books of feminist interest are constantly appearing, such as Catherine Cleverdon's *The Woman Suffrage Movement in Canada;* Dorothy Deegan's *The Stereotype of the Single Woman in American Novels; a social study with implications for the education of women;* and Oliver Jensen's *The Revolt of American Women, a pictorial history,* none of which are in the library. All should be.

WOMEN'S CLUB LEADER APPEALS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

WASHINGTON—The president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of America, "firmly convinced that it was the women who won the last election," has called for equal rights for her sex.

The president, Mrs. Oscar Ahlgren, presented a seven-point program for her organization in a radio interview. It includes:

Establishment of an academy of public affairs similar to the military and naval academies; abolition of the Electoral College; shortening of presidential campaigns; recognition of women in government appointments; uniform nonsupport, marriage, and divorce laws; harmonious relationship of labor, management and the general public; and "full citizenship under the Constitution for all people of the United States."

"In plain words," Mrs. Ahlgren said, "all of this means equal rights for women."

EQUALITY OF THE SEXES

ABDUL BAHA

There must be an equality of rights between men and women. Women shall receive an equal privilege of education. This will enable them to qualify and progress in all degrees of occupation and accomplishment; for the world of humanity possesses two wings—man and woman. If one wing remains incapable and defective, it will restrict the power of the other, and full flight will be impossible. Therefore the completeness and perfection of the human world is dependent upon the equal development of these two factors.

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